

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **January 20, 2004**.

Members Present:

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson
Legislator Peter O'Leary - Vice-Chair
Legislator David Bishop
Legislator Andrew Crecca
Legislator William Lindsay
Legislator Lynn Nowick
Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Also in Attendance:

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature
Ilona Julius - Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter
Meaghan O'Reilly - Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa
Carl Yellon - Aide to Legislator Crecca
Maria Ammirati - Aide to Legislator O'Leary
Kevin LaValle - Aide to Legislator Losquadro
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Nick Dispenziere - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Jim Spero - Director/Budget Review Office
Joanne Doering - Budget Review Office
Ray Zaccaro - Aide to Legislator Bishop
Ivan Young - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's Office
Roger Podd - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's Office
Tim Motz - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive's Office
Ruth Cusack - Suffolk County League of Women Voters
Richard Dormer - Chief Deputy Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Dept
James Maggio - Assistant Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Dept
Bill Rohrer - Lieutenant/Suffolk County Police Department
Walter Denzler - Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Donald Sullivan - Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Dave Fischler - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Robert Kearon - Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office
Cindy Scesny - District Attorney's Office
Arty Cliff - President/Police Benevolent Association
Tom Muratore - Vice-President/Police Benevolent Association
Vito Dagnello - President/Correction Officer's Association
Bill Ellis - Public Relations/Correction Officer's Association
Ray Griffin - 1st Vice-President/Suffolk Detective's Association
Tom Heinssen - 2nd Vice-President/Suffolk Detective's Association
Rusty McCormack - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk Detective's Association
Pete Falcetta - Sgt-at-Arms/Suffolk Detective's Association
Debbie Eppel - Director/Public Information Office
All Other Interested Parties

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M.*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good afternoon. I would just ask -- the speakers are on in the back, any members of the Public Safety Committee to please come forward. I would like to ask Legislator O'Leary to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

Thank you, and welcome to the first committee meeting of the Legislature's Public Safety & Public Information Committee. We have been reconstituted from last year and I would just like to welcome back the returning members of the committee, Legislator O'Leary and Legislator Bishop and Legislator Crecca and of course Legislator Lindsay. And welcome a returning member to the Public Safety Committee, Legislator Nowick, we're glad to have you back on Public Safety; and a new member to the committee, Legislator Losquadro, glad that you're part of this committee.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Today we really just have the one resolution. I know that we have had someone requesting to speak with us today also, Commissioner Dave Fischler, but Dave said he is able to wait, so I think that we will go to the order of business that we've advertised and that is to meet with the appointee who is seeking confirmation as the Police Commissioner and that's Richard Dormer. If you would please come forward, sir, and just have a seat at the table.

1017-04 - Confirming appointment of County Commissioner of Suffolk County Department of Police (County Executive).

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Thank you. I'm glad you were able to join us this afternoon. I know that the members of the committee, some have had an opportunity to meet with you privately, but I do know that committee members are going to have some questions and comments probably that they would like to share. But before they do, I think I would like to ask you to maybe just give us a little bit of an overview of your background and share what you'd like with the committee before we commence questioning.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you very much. I appreciate being here. I'm very happy to be here, by the way, and I hope I am able to answer all your questions to your satisfaction, I'm going to try the best I can.

which is Support Services Division right now. I worked in every division in the department, almost every position in the department, I did miss a few but I worked in the Support Services Division, that's the 911 system, Records, Training, Detective Division and Patrol. I also worked in Internal Affairs both as an Investigator and Commanding Officer. I worked in Highway Patrol as a Sergeant and the Commanding Officer. I worked in the 2nd Precinct, 4th Precinct, 1st Precinct, 5th Precinct, I was Commanding Officer of the Hostage Negotiation Team for a time and -- you know, so I think that I had a great opportunity to observe the workings of the Police Department in all its aspects.

I know the business has changed over the last eleven years, I have been out eleven years, and I always say that police and business is like medicine; it changes quickly, especially in the technological area, and also because of the new realities of problems with terrorism and that kind of thing. So what may have been pertinent ten years ago may be completely different today and I think we all know that. Anything else?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I think from my perspective, perhaps you could share a little bit of an overview of what your vision for the department is. Certainly having, you know, served in all the capacities that you have over the years, it's got to be very exciting, and I think I said this to you when we met earlier, that it's got to be just such a wonderful feeling to have the opportunity to be asked to serve as the Police Commissioner and I'm sure that, you know, people working within the department, you know, probably say, "If I were the Commissioner I would do this or that or the other thing." So, I mean, what is your vision, what would you like to see done in this new role?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I'll speak in generalities, I'm not going to get into specifics, units, bureaus, that kind of thing. I would like to say, by the way, that being out of the business for eleven years in private sector gives you a different view on the policing business, and I mentioned this to a lot of people. Both inside the department, the people that I've talked to so far, and also the Legislators that I've talked to and anybody that would listen to me, it gives you a different view of how policing is done.

I would also like to say that Suffolk County is very blessed to have a Police Department like the Suffolk County Police Department. Terrific people in the department and I don't want anybody to ever forget that. I know that you're all friends of the Police Department, you're public safety, but I want to publicly state that, that the members of the Police Department do a terrific job keeping the people safe. And you know, if you look at the selection process, we have thousands of people that apply for the job because of the pay and the working conditions and the way the people in Suffolk County take care of them.

The Police Department, in my view coming from the outside again, and I talk about it might need some tweaking and when I say that it might be just my philosophy of policing. And I view the police and Suffolk

County as a service agency, mostly service rather than crime fighters. I know most police officers come on the job to be crime fighters, they

want to arrest burglars, robbers and all these miscreants, when 80% of the job is service and the officers do a terrific job with that. But can we improve on that? I have to see when I get in, but that's one of my goals is to improve the quality of service to the citizens in the service area.

The Suffolk County Police Department handles major events probably as good as any Police Department anywhere. The plane crash, blackouts, the sniper incident, all these major events, they bring it in. When something bad happens they can do it, but most of the job is service. And you know, a noise complaint to a citizen can be a big issue and the officers -- I'm going to impress on officers that that is a big issue to the police. Do we have any water?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, certainly. Doug, if you could, please.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Maybe I'm talking too much. I just want to mention, while I'm pleased if I could -- I'm getting a little dry here.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Yeah, why don't you just wait.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Obviously I'm nervous because, you know, I've got all these people waiting.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Obviously someone must have painted this picture of Legislators that's anything other than the cordial respectful people that we are. But why don't you just sit there, take a breath and we'll get you some water.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

While I'm waiting for the water, you know, I want to move the thing along, I know you're pretty business. But I view policing, especially in Suffolk County, as problem solving, I think we have to be ahead of the game rather than reactive. Now, having said that, most -- or a lot of units are reactive in nature; the Detective Division, for example, they react to crimes, they have to go out and investigate. But I want to instill in the organization of problem solving philosophy, don't just respond to the scene, handle a complaint and if it's a chronic complaint, try to solve it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Madam Chair, I want to talk --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. It seems like we're out of lack for water but I'm sure it will get here soon. Legislator Nowick I believe asked and then we'll start a list and then Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. NOWICK:

Good afternoon. Welcome.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you.

LEG. NOWICK:

I am happy to hear you say that service is so important because I think as an elected official or a public servant of any kind, I think the most important thing is public service and the service that your department could offer. But we -- and I wanted to thank you for coming to my office, it was very nice speaking to you and we went over a lot of subjects but I'm not sure if I had asked you, and I don't think I did, last week I had an opportunity yet again to attend a DARE graduation with 300 young boys and girls and I wondered what your take was on the DARE Program and how you felt about it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I think we discussed -- I'm not sure, I may have discussed it with someone else.

LEG. NOWICK:

I don't think with me, no.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay, I'm sorry. One of the major goals of a police department or a police service -- in fact, you'll hear me use the term service rather than department or force -- is crime prevention and the DARE Program, I view it as a crime prevention operation. It is expensive, I'm well aware of that, it costs between one and a half and \$2 million in Suffolk County every year for the 28 officers that are assigned to that. But having said that, and I'm also aware that the Legislature has passed a resolution if I'm -- I can stand corrected on that -- that you want the DARE to continue. At this time, we're not going to disband DARE, we're going to continue with DARE. Will we look at it down the road based on budget problems? We've got to leave that option open, but at this point we're going to leave DARE in operation.

As you probably know, we're under the DARE organization so there's -- we're limited in what we can do with the program, we've got to follow their requirements. And we do have a program, I talked to some Legislators about the program in seventh grade because I have a feeling that the fifth and sixth grade is fine but then there's a break and the kids get into junior high school and we lose them; I mean, that's a tough time for kids. And there is a program called {STARE} in the seventh grade which is in operation right now. What we want to do with the people in the DARE Program is utilize them more efficiently, we want them to continue doing what they're doing in the schools but then be available on the downtime to assist in patrol; again, that's an efficiency type thing.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just as a matter of information, I do believe that that is, in fact,

what is being done now, the DARE officers do report to the precincts after they're done, that was something that was established about two or three years ago. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Hello. We had the conversation about DARE, if you recall, quite extensively.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Oh, okay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And I'm in agreement with your position on DARE. I think if it -- the program was eliminated it would really be a short-term savings and I would much rather see us spend dollars in keeping kids straight than incarcerated and putting them in the court system or the probation system, so I'm happy to hear you say that.

Along the same lines, and we might have had this discussion as well but I think it would be important to have it on the record, in every one of our Legislative Districts we depend on the COPE Program, the COPE units, to really fulfill the mission that you envision the department for and that's a service type of industry. How do you feel about COPE and the COPE Program, COPE units in the precincts?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I think we should continue COPE and we have to look at the way they operate, we're going to continue the COPE operation. The way it works in the precinct right now, it's like a split force, officers respond to 911 and then we have COPE who deal with quality of life issues, they're released from the 911 call unless there's an emergency where they're needed.

The DARE officers work out of COPE, they complement that unit. And I -- at least I'm thinking about it right now, I don't know if we can do it, I have to talk to the people in the department, but introduce some problem-oriented policing along with COPE, the problem solving with the chronic complaints and issues that come up in neighborhoods that take a lot of police officer's times. Studies indicate that about 80% of the calls for service are generated by nine or 10% of the citizens and these -- we have to attack this nine or ten -- I don't mean attack, I mean analyze and look at and see if we can come up with a solution to the problem so that the officers are not being called back all the time to the same situation. But COPE is definitely the backbone of that type of operation and I don't see COPE going anywhere.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Crecca? You are done, Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yep.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah, I'll be brief because we, too, had the opportunity to meet prior to today's meeting in my office and we had a nice, frank discussion and I appreciate you coming in beforehand to sit down and speak with me. One thing -- and a lot of my questions were questions that have

already been asked, but there's one thing I would just ask that you keep in mind and ask if you have a strong position on it. Certainly in your service as Commissioner, if your confirmation goes forth, would be you want to have the leeway to be the Commissioner and do what you need to do. The only thing I would ask is often there are policy decisions that government makes, specifically this Legislative body, and I just would like your commitment that if this Legislature adopts a policy, as a member of the Executive Branch of Government that you would in good spirit carry out those policies as may be adopted by this Legislature.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I concur with that. I have always followed the law. The people that work for me, I want them to follow the law, whether it comes from this body, from the State, from court decisions. So you won't have any problem with me on that.

I also pledge if we do -- to the Public Safety Committee, if we do make major changes in operations or philosophy that we will notify you, we'll let you know. I think that we have to have open communication with our Legislators because you represent the people of Suffolk County and these are the people that we work for. So I understand that that's important, but certainly no problem with following resolutions of the law.

LEG. CRECCA:

I have no further questions, Madam Chairman, at this time, we'll see if anything else comes up.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. That's a point very well taken and I appreciate your response to that because Legislators really are on the front line. You know, our offices are in the community and people will call us for almost anything imaginable. So if there is to be any major shifts in policy, it certainly would behoove everyone involved for the Legislators to know what it is going on so that we can react appropriately.

LEG. NOWICK:

Angie?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I know that you said that you have been out of the police force for many years now. Times have changed, as you know, and we have to worry nowadays about budgets and somehow balancing our budgets; how would you intend to maintain this service and still balance the budget, if you will, in your department? How will you continue to provide service

given the fact that we are counting every dollar that we spend nowadays?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

That's very important and it's important that the Police Department

work within their budget. I must say, I did get a chance to look at some of the budget figures for the last quarter from the department and they're managing -- at this point they're managing the budget very well, the overtime budget, the operating budget. 2004 may not be a problem year as far as the budget is concerned, but we also have to look for efficiencies in 2004 because we all know there's another year coming up after that and another year after that. So when we look at the efficiencies in the police force or in the Police Department, we have to be mindful that public safety is going to be number one. And as far as -- I can tell you my background is --

LEG. NOWICK:

Since September 11th there has been so much need and so much more demand on the Police Department --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Right and it could change again.

LEG. NOWICK:

-- and I wonder, how are you going to work around that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

It could change again. I mean, the technology that's required today because of what happened on 911 costs a lot of money. Now, there are a lot of Federal funds that are coming in to Suffolk County to cover some of this, but a lot of it is we have to shoulder the burden ourselves. But I'm going to demand that all the managers and administrators in the department watch their budget very carefully and run it like a business. You know, there are certain aspects of the police that is business and the budget is certainly one, we can't get away from that. So I'm going to be watching that very closely and we're going to monitor the budget. What's going to happen down the road? I don't know. I think there's a lot of uncertainty for everybody.

LEG. NOWICK:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:

Good afternoon. Thank you for coming and thank you for showing the great respect for the Legislature that you have so far, you have reached out to I think all of us and we have all had very interesting, frank, productive meetings.

One question I want to ask you on the record -- just sort of to get your perspective on the force as you come on to the job -- is can you site for the committee two areas where you think the Suffolk County Police do an exceptional job, better than other departments, similar

departments, you know, around, and two areas where you think we need improvement?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I mentioned major incidents. The Suffolk County Police

Department is noted for its professional response to major incidents and history has proven that. They -- the quality of the people that we have in the police service, we get the best people into the police service because of the number of applicants and our selection process, it's second to none and we can be very proud of that.

I think that one area, and we may have spoken about this, is police officers, again, from my perspective and I think that they maybe need to improve a little bit in the public relations area. Officers well trained, well equipped, well paid and they don't sell themselves, and by that I mean they don't sell themselves in their contact with citizens, just like a business would. And it's one of the areas that I'm going to talk to the officers about when we do get to that. And by the way, this is nothing new, this is being talked about in the police business for years about courtesy, professionalism, caring, giving a little bit of attention to somebody that may have a minor, what may appear to be a minor issue but to them it's a major issue and again, it's just public relations and good customer relations; I certainly want to improve on that.

I would also like to improve on the selection process for special units in the department because as I've talked to officers, they've voiced concern, and let me qualify that a little bit. There are always people disappointed when promotions are made, the people that get them are very happy, the people that didn't get them are unhappy, so I'm well aware of that. So we as police administrators must make sure that we have a selection process that's as fair as we can make it, dealing with human beings, that we give everybody a shot at making Detective or special unit.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. You talked about special units and I know that when we met I did ask you about some of the special units, particularly the Marine Bureau which is -- you know, we are part of an Island and certainly the Marine Bureau I feel is a very vital part of what we do in the Police Department and was concerned that the same level of commitment to the Marine Bureau and the Special Aviation Unit, that that same commitment would be there along with the resources necessary for it. So perhaps you could share your feelings on that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I assured you that the Marine Bureau was not going to be disbanded, I think that was a rumor that was going around. I even checked with the County Executive on that, he hadn't heard about that, so we put that to rest, we're not going to disband the Marine Bureau. We need the Marine Bureau, especially now in this day and age with all the stuff that's going on. The Coast Guard is not patrolling out there so Suffolk County Marine Bureau has to do it, so we're not going to diminish the service out there.

The aviation, again, is a very expensive item but in Suffolk County, with the large area that we cover, Fire Island is a critical area if something happens, so you really need the helicopters. They're expensive, but I don't know if we're going to get rid of helicopters, I never even suggested that. But it always comes up because they're expensive, you know, like DARE, but policing business is an expensive business, I guess we all know that. Again, it's got to be managed

efficiently and if we can do that without jeopardizing public safety, we'll do it.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Part of the backup that we received in addition to your resume was a narrative that you attached and in it you say that you understand that the County is still working on a Federal Consent Decree and therefore the hiring of qualified minority candidates as police officers will be one of your top priorities; how do you see addressing that issue?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Again, this is not a new issue, this has been a problem for every administration, to increase minority candidates and hopefully Police Officers into the service. And the County, in good faith, has done its best over the years to fulfill the requirements of the Consent Decree. There are still the three categories in that decree, females, blacks and Hispanics, it's something I'm willing to look at when I go into the department and see -- I'm going to talk to, again, people, minorities and see if I can get some input from them on how we can get more qualified people to take the test. We're going to work hard at it. I mean, the County Executive has committed himself to this, we have spoken about it and we're going to do all we can to increase minority representation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

You've touched a couple of times, as some of the members of the committee have, on budgets, and even when you spoke about DARE and your commitment to it that, you know, at some point in time that might be something that would be looked at. My concern is the staffing levels of the precincts, that the cars that are out there, the sector cars, that we not have a situation where cars are shut down. Do you feel that you can make that kind of a commitment, that that would not be an area you would be looking at when you're looking at cost-cutting measures?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, if -- let me just state that minimum staffing, the Police Department should have a minimum staffing procedure anyway, the commander should have this, I'm talking about Precinct Commanders; they should be able to decide a minimum number of cars that they need in service, this is very important. So we're always going to have minimum staffing, you know, which we will not go below.

As far as personnel are concerned, looking at the numbers, and I can't give you off the top of my head about police officers, it's over 1,800 I believe right now and there's a class in the academy which we're going to have is in pretty good shape, it's in pretty good shape as far as staffing is concerned at this point.

Again, it's tough for me to look into the future. I can't say that something is not going to happen because I don't know what's going to happen with the budget, but certainly we have priorities and we mentioned them here today, DARE is a priority. And I'm again, I'm aware that this is the law, you guys and gals passed the law on that that we've got to keep DARE going and we're going to do that. We will continue to follow -- as somebody asked before are we going to follow the letter of the law, we will. We've had budget problems before in

Suffolk County; in fact, it seems like through my whole career all I heard was budget problems and it's going to be disaster next year and I've heard that and we've survived and the Police Department survived. You know, the personnel numbers as we sit today, and I talked to Commissioner Gallagher about this, he left the department in pretty good shape personnel wise, so as we sit here today we're not in bad shape. A year from now, depending on what happens, retirements, or a year and a half from now we don't know. But we're certainly going to be looking at efficiencies, again, in the department, and I don't know what -- you know, I haven't identified any units, any departments any bureaus at this point, I want to get into the department. It would be pretty premature, before you voted upon me as Police Commissioner, for me to start making a decision on who I was going to cut or where I was going to cut. I want to wait until you vote on me and then the full Legislature gets to vote next week and then hopefully you'll give me a chance to get in there and look at the operation and make decisions on this.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I certainly can respect that and I think that no one, you know, is going to have a problem with any kind of efficiencies that, you know, can make the department more cost effective. But I don't think that efficiencies necessarily are synonymous with cutting, because even know the staffing levels are good now, as you clearly stated in your Ten Point Program, the very first bulleted item was the protection and preservation of human life as the highest priority. And I think that more than anything, people want to feel safe in their communities, in their homes, in our County, and we have done a very good job of that, as you noted, but there's a cost associated with that. And yes, there have been -- and I had to chuckle when you said that for as long as you can remember there have always been budget problems and even in the height of the economy, just sailing along and Wall Street was great and, you know, things couldn't have been better, you know, the budget guys are walking around saying, "We've got budget problems. We always seem to have budget problems." But again, the public has come to expect a certain amount of service and I think it's incumbent upon all of us to dedicate, you know, our efforts to making sure that the department at all times has the resources and the manpower or woman power necessary to do their job for the public. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you for coming. I apologize we couldn't get together, I know we made every effort to try to schedule an appointment but I had a committee meeting before this, so I apologize we didn't get to speak sooner than this. But continuing on your Program for Change Points, I see you have in here about the use of advanced technology. And having recently come from the private sector myself, I know that we are rapidly approaching a point of real time transmittal of data and other

services to enhance the service that our officers can provide and we're rapidly approaching a paperless department. I see you nodding your head, I assume that you're in agreement on this and this is something that you want to pursue and continue to invest money in the department. And even though it may be a cost outlay for the department, that it is something that ultimately will be better in terms of efficiency and service for the public?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes. Commissioner Gallagher has really done a great job in the technology area. When I came in yesterday I spent hours talking to people about the paperless Police Officer, you know, everything computerized, collected instantaneously so that it can be utilized by other units in the department to attack problems, crime fighting, quality of life, that kind of thing. And they're a long -- they're a long way toward that goal right now, it's in the works. So I mean, this is cutting edge stuff, it's the way to go, the officer will be able to take a call, put it into the computer and it goes right into the system immediately. A supervisor can look at it over the computer and authorize it or sign-off on it and if it needs to be corrected it can be done over the computer and then it goes into the system and that's -- you know, the District Attorney's Office and the Detective Squads or whoever can access this information and this is the way.

I mean, this is efficiency, this is what we're talking about, so officers will have time to address other problems. Right now officers are very busy. The policing business is a busy business right now, they're going -- especially when you get weather like we've had the last few days, officers are very busy out there, they're going from one call to another. And I was talking to a Sergeant yesterday who mentioned how much the job had changed because I need to know that, even midnights are not quiet anymore, the shifts are busy, the detectives are busy. And it's labor intensive, you need people to do this. So you know, I'm not missing the point that we got to keep staffing levels at the proper level to deliver the service that the people require in Suffolk County.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

So it is your intention to continue on course with the technological improvements of the department.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Most definitely, yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator O'Leary.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Good afternoon. As you could probably imagine, just summarizing -- last is not necessarily best with respect to appointed questions. You had indicated in your opening remarks that you didn't want to get into specifics, and I can respect and appreciate that. However, I do have a couple of points before I get into your Programs For Change that you alluded to in your letter, in your backup on the resolution.

One is I was somewhat troubled -- you're well aware of my background, as I am of yours, and I've expressed this sentiment to the County Executive and I'd like to hear your comments on it. As you are well aware, in his announcement that you were going to be his designee for Commissioner, he also announced that he was appointing a Chief of Department which, in effect, set a precedent in the history of department that has never been done before; traditionally and historically the Commissioner appoints his staff. Now, that was troubling to me because that's an indication that perhaps the County Executive would want to have more of a hands-on approach to the

operation and the management of the department and I'm interested to hear what your comments are regarding that specific matter. And this is something that isn't strange to the County Executive as far as my concern about it because I have spoken to him about it, but I would like to hear your comments on just how that occurred and what were the matter on how it occurred.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay. Legislator O'Leary, yes, we have known each other for years; nice to see you again. And I think you know me, if I wasn't -- if I wasn't allowed to run the Police Department I wouldn't be sitting here, okay. Anybody that knows me, and you said you know me for years, that I'm like that. And when I sat down with the County Executive, the County Executive Elect at that time, and he asked me if I would take the job, I went over the ground rules with him; I didn't want to take the job if I wasn't going to be running the Police Department. He assured me I was going to be running the Police Department, he just needed to know what was going on, as any public official should know about a police service or any other department. And I said, "That's fine, I'll keep you apprised of what's going on." And then he said to me -- and I'll be very honest with everybody here, he mentioned Bob Moore's name and he said, "Bob has helped me in the campaign, I've known him for years, what do you think about Moore," I said, "He's a fine officer." I know Bob Moore for almost 20 years. He worked with me in the 5th Precinct, he was a Lieutenant, I was the Commanding Officer. And then when I went to headquarters to work in the Chief of Department's Office I brought Bob Moore up there because of his intellect and his work ethic, he's a terrific worker. I've known -- I knew Bob Moore after I left the department, so I'm very familiar with Robert Moore who is going to be the Chief of the Department. And I told Steve Levy that I wanted Bob Moore as Chief of the Department.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm sorry, it --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I told him I wanted Bob Moore.

LEG. O'LEARY:

-- wasn't the other way around, the County Executive didn't tell you?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, he didn't.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, if I could, again, I made it very clear when I took the job that I was going to be running the department. I was also going to make the selections and that was understood, and I'm telling you exactly what was mentioned with Bob Moore. Then some weeks later when I was told by the media person for the County Executive that they were going to make an announcement on me, he read off the announcement and in there it had Bob Moore was going to be appointed the Chief of the Department, and I said, "No good, you can't do that." A couple of

problems with it; number one, I make the appointment, okay, not Steve Levy, and I told the guy that. And I also said that there's a person in that position already and there's no Police Commissioner, we can't be making appointments before we get in there, it's got to come out, he said, "Fine." I said if they have a problem with it get back to me; he got back to me and told me that a couple of the releases had gone out, unfortunately, and this is what happened. But it was premature, it should never have gone it, it wasn't fair to Bob Moore and it's not fair to the County Executive and it wasn't fair to the Police Department and the person that was in that position.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, I agree with you it wasn't fair; not only was it not fair but it was precedent setting. And it certainly sent the wrong message and signal to those members of the department who are unaccustomed to the Commissioner not designating his command staff personnel.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm well aware of that; and unfortunately it happened and I don't think that's going to happen again.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I would hope not.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No; well, not with me.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. The --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And I can understand. By the way, I'm not trying to be defensive, I understand your concern with that, okay. And I've spoken --

LEG. O'LEARY:

It sends the wrong message to those within the department --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I understand.

LEG. O'LEARY:

-- the impression given, the perception, of course, is that it wasn't your choice. But you've clarified that, you clearly made a statement

here today that it was your choice but the timing of it all was poor, to say the least.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:

But you do agree and concur that it was precedent setting, it has never been done before in the history of the department.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I can't remember it ever happening like that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, I certainly can't and I was with the department 36 years.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, it shouldn't have happened.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. I'm going to move on to the next subject before I get into specific questions on your Ten Programs For Change.

It was brought to my attention some time ago, and I've had discussions with the Chairman with respect to this matter, and some time ago -- and I'd like to clarify just when it was done. I think it's important because clearly, to quote you, you put pen to a letter and you wrote a rather lengthy letter to a Legislator some time ago. And in that letter -- and I do have a copy of it. In that letter, in my opinion, it was a scathing report on the status of the managerial practices within the Police Department. I would like to ask you a question, A, do you confirm and affirm that that letter did in fact -- was penned by you, what were the circumstances that you sent that letter and has anything changed in your opinion concerning the contents of that letter from then to now?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Are we talking about the letter to Steve Hackeling?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Is that who it was to, because it just says "Dear Steve."

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I think it was Steve Hackeling because Steve Hackeling was in the Legislature at that time. I'm not sure what position he was in, whether he was on Public Safety, if he was Presiding Officer, I'm not sure, I don't remember that. And I was out of the Police Department and he asked me to review the operations of the Police Department --

LEG. O'LEARY:

When was that letter written, sir?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I couldn't tell you that, some time early in the 90's; that thing has got to be eight or nine years old.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Ten years.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

By the way, there's a lot of water under the bridge in nine years.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm sure there is; I would hope there is.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

But, you know, I was out of the Police Department, if I'm asked by somebody to do a critique on the business --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Were you asked to do that, sir?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
I'm sorry?

LEG. O'LEARY:
Were you asked to do that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
Yes, yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:
Critique the department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
That's what it was.

LEG. O'LEARY:
Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
The managerial practices in the Police Department. I read the -- you know, I refreshed my memory on that and read the letter again and I don't know if there's anything --

LEG. O'LEARY:
You don't know if anything -- if your opinion has changed on any of the contents of the letter?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
No, no. No, if you would ask me specifically about something then I'll answer it.

LEG. O'LEARY:
Okay, all right. One of the things, back then you crafted questions to be asked of the Police Commissioner to determine the efficiency, and I'm quoting, "To determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the SCPD in this era of tight budgets and high taxes"; I don't believe that has changed in the last eleven years, do you?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
No, we just mentioned, we always have that situation.

16

LEG. O'LEARY:
All right. And you crafted questions for whoever was going to be named as Commissioner to be asked questions.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
Yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:
Are you of the opinion that these same questions are appropriate for a person seeking to be confirmed as Police Commissioner today?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
Yeah, I don't think it's changed. As far as I can remember, these questions could be asked by anybody here and the Police Commissioner

should be able to answer the questions.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, perhaps they will be asked by somebody here.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

That's fine. I'm willing to give it a shot.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And I'll try my best to make it clear as to what those questions are. But I was a little bit concerned with the content, just so you are aware, I was concerned with the content of the letter, specifically where it comes to decentralization and flattening the police organization, reorganization. I mean, clearly you had a very, very strong opinion in the letter on what your viewpoints were that what could occur, not only to civilianize the department but to cut the layer of management, high level management within the department; has that changed at all?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah. Well, after I wrote that, I believe it was after I wrote that, they did flatten the organization. The then Commissioner eliminated two Assistant Chief positions which are two star chiefs, so the organization was flattened; I'm not saying my letter had anything to do with it, I'm just saying that somebody did it. Civilianization has moved ahead a pace in the last four or five years in the Suffolk County Police Department probably at a pace a lot faster than I was even envisioning at that time.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well, as part of the flattening of the Police organization, the reorganization, you strongly advocated the civilianization of several units then within the Police Department; I mean, it's quite an extensive list. And just to give you a little bit of background, in the last eleven years some of these units have, in fact, been civilianized, but there are still police officers in certain units and it's for good reason, good cause. There's evidence that's being stored and in custody and you have to have a chain of evidence, etcetera. But one of the units that you advocated being civilianized was the computer unit; are you aware today that there are Detectives conducting investigations as a result of the technological

advancements that have been made with computers and there is a Computer Investigation Unit within the Police Department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I'm aware of that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So you're not --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I wasn't taking about that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I was talking about the unit that writes the programs, puts the computers in the vehicles, maintains them. From my view, looking at it from strictly a business point of view, we don't hire Police Officers to write programs for the computers for the police cars, we can hire people from the outside a lot cheaper than the Police Officer, that was my point. And from my understanding right now, they don't call it the computer unit anymore, I'm not sure what they call it but it's being pretty much civilianized. So they followed pretty much what I wrote in that letter which was ten years. And again --

LEG. O'LEARY:

I acknowledge that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

-- they may have done that without looking at the letter because I don't know, obviously this letter got around but, you know, it wasn't -- you know --

LEG. O'LEARY:

It wasn't for public knowledge?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, no, I didn't care.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I wasn't in the police service, I looked at this as strictly analyzing the police service from a business point of view because that's my background. So when somebody asked me to do a critique, I'm not going to give them flowers and candy, I'm going to do a critique and give them the harsh truth as I see it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And that's my point, sir. The critique that you gave ten years ago, if it was ten years ago because you can't -- I mean, you can't remember when the letter was drafted, but it was let's say ten years ago.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

In that time frame.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well, back then you had a strong opinion as to how the department should be run. And my question to you --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I still have strong opinions, yeah.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And my question to you, has that opinion changed based on the turn of events over the last ten years with respect to the management policies and practices of the Police Department as you know it today?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, if we're specifically talking about civilianization, it hasn't changed. We're going to continue looking at the civilian positions that are now being manned by Police Officers, sworn officers, to see if we can bring civilians in to do the job cheaper so we can put the cops out on the street. I mean, I think that that's a good business practice.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I don't disagree with that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay. As far as flapping --

LEG. O'LEARY:

More cops on the street is better for the public and the County, is it not?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, having said that, you know, I do agree that officers are needed in certain units because of their expertise or the job that they do, and the narcotics or weapons, that kind of thing, they have to be sworn officers, there's no argument with that. And I think there are some units where you're going to have a mix, you're going to have civilians and officers working side by side. Although this -- sometimes it's problematic in the police service where you have this kind of thing because the unit work is different.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right. Well, just perhaps to refresh your recollection as to the contents of that letter, there were basically I think seven highlighted areas, one was national accreditation; what's your viewpoint on that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, the Suffolk County Police Department is the 13th largest Police Department in the United States. I mean, that thing -- we're way up there, and we're recognized as being one of the best departments in the country. We should -- and a lot of departments in the country, lots of them are accredited, both nationally and State. We should have moved towards accreditation years ago, just like

hospitals and educational institutions get accredited, have an outside review come in and look at our policies and procedures and maybe tell us where we can improve in efficiencies; it is an efficiency model. We should have done that years ago.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, it was started, was it not?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

It was started and then because of budget problems it had to be discontinued, it became a budget issue. But there is also a State accreditation which is free that we should move forward to, and I'm going to look at that if I am blessed and given -- I don't know if I should use that term blessed -- if I get the job and I go in there, I'm going to look at accreditation because I think it would be a plus for the Suffolk County Police Department and the people of Suffolk

County.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, just to add to that, the budgetary problems and constraints haven't changed in ten years, so I would think the national accreditation problem may be a concern budgetarily --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

But the State may not.

LEG. O'LEARY:

But certainly in the State, that's free you say?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, the State is free.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So there's intention on your part to pursue that, State accreditation?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes. There are some obstacles but we have to examine that and look at it and see if we can overcome it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. The other area was -- and this one is near and dear to my heart, as you can probably imagine -- the detective selection process; you were quite critical of that some time ago. Is it your opinion that that has changed for the worse or the better or is it still, as you say in the context of your letter, the good ole boy network?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

All I can tell you, I'm not in yet so I can't tell you --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, there's a lot of assumptions on a lot of people's part that you are there.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

One day, I was up there yesterday.

20

LEG. O'LEARY:

You were there, you're there as the Deputy Police Commissioner.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, one day.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Congratulations, by the way.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you. I appreciate that, thank you. This is my second day.

And by the way, I don't know what has changed with the selection process but I have talked to officers on the street over the last few years and that is one of the reoccurring complaints is the selection process for Detective, and also for the special units in the department. Now, I did say earlier on that when somebody is selected

for a special assignment, there are always people that are disappointed, I'm very familiar with that. So I think that the administration should strive to make the process as fair as possible. Am I going to look at it when I get in to make sure that they're doing the right thing for the officers in the department? Yes. But when I left the department and I wrote that thing I did have concerns about it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm assuming then that you still have concerns about it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, I didn't say that, I don't know. All I'm hearing from officers that I've talked to over the years that it's tough to make Detective unless you know somebody. You mentioned the ole boy network --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yes. Well, no, you did in your letter.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Oh, okay; oh no, I believe that, but you mentioned it now. And if this is the view out there with the officers, I think that we have to do something about it. At least make an effort to, you know --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Would you be in favor of --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

-- make it as fair as possible.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Would you be in favor of establishing a Civil Service title for Detective? Of course, grand-fathering all those in place right now. I got some real looks over here. You know, about the grandfather clause, don't you?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

They'd all have to go back to the books. I don't know about that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't know if -- I think we have enough tests, we have enough problems with the tests we got without creating another one.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And what about, sir, problem-oriented policing; is that not the COPE today, isn't that the function and purpose of COPE?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, yeah. Now, problem-oriented policing, you know, we have the -- the way I look at problem-oriented policing is that officers look at their job description as problem solvers. I mentioned this earlier on, that they should use the {SERA} model which is the heart of problem-oriented policing and it fits right in with COPE. COPE deals with quality of life, problems that drive the communities crazy are

quality of life and you've got to use the model, the problem-oriented policing model with the technology that we have available right now.

And we were talking about the paperless technology, officers in the car will be able to go on the computer and find out what happened in the last 24 hours in their area and actually go on there, they don't have to look at any reports and find out that there were problems, they can bring up the reports and look at them. And then if they're trained in problem solving, utilizing the services of the other government agencies and attack these problems. I mean, this is the Police Officer of the 21st Century. You know, we can't just keep thinking of ourselves as answering 911 calls, making a report and then sitting and waiting for the next 911 call to come in, you know, we've got to get away from that mode. I like the split force theory, problem solvers and the people that have to handle the 911 calls, because we've got to have them.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Speaking of 911, you -- is there a possibility that you would be an advocate for adopting an alternate type of system such as a non-emergency type of number, like a 311 or something like that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I think that would be very beneficial to the people of Suffolk County. Again, cost becomes a factor when you look at something like that. But certainly, in this day and age when you have -- and I'll give you an example, the last blackout that we had, people were calling 911 to find out if it was a terrorist attack; 911 becomes overloaded, overburdened. There's no number that people can call and get information on a blackout or something akin to that, so emergency calls -- and I talked to the people in communications yesterday, I toured that area and I specifically asked them questions about that and they said they had to hang up on people that night, the evening of the blackout because they were calling; "What happened? When are the lights coming back on? Do you have LIPA's number?" Stuff like that, they just have to hang up, they're tying up the 911 number. 311 which is utilized in New York City and also they have an enhanced 311 in the city which ties in Public Works, Department of Housing, all these

22

areas that you can call for help without tying up 911; I think it's certainly something we should look at.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Good, I'm glad to hear that. Your opinion, sir, what is your opinion of the present ratio of supervisor and detectives in the department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't know; you know, I haven't looked at it.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Did you ever have an opinion concerning that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, no. You know, the workload, it depends on where you work, it depends on the type of cases you've got, you know, there are a lot of variables in here. If you're working in one squad where the types of cases are different, they're lengthy, they're complicated, okay,

supervision may be different there than the normal, run of the mill, if there is such a thing, case where you wouldn't need the supervision. I really don't know. I don't have an idea of what the ratio should be; again, you'd have to look at it individually and determine where the officers are working and what they're doing.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, in light of that statement then, what do you envision then the table of organization of the SCPD looking like under your leadership as Commissioner? I mean, are you going to make an attempt to flatten that table of organization or -- I mean, you don't have any immediate plans concerning the flattening of the organization, the table of organization?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, not as we speak right now, no. I have to get in there. One day I've been in there and --

LEG. O'LEARY:

I know that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

And --

LEG. O'LEARY:

You keep on saying that, one day you've been there.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, because I think it's important.

LEG. O'LEARY:

But you certainly have ideas and thoughts on how the department should be run, do you not?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, here's my thinking. To go into the Police Department, if you people vote me out and the full Legislature votes me in, then I'm going to go in and talk to people, take my time. I'm not going to go

in there and start slashing units and combining units and flattening the organization, I have to look at this. This is the business way of doing it, because the people in the organization that I'm going to talk to are going to be able to tell me why they're doing such and such a thing. And by the way, the policing business is a very complicated business today, it's changed in eleven years, and I keep saying that but I think it's important that people understand. If you haven't been in the Police business, it's very difficult to tell people how complicated it is, it's not simple because you're dealing with people's safety and welfare. You know, 2,600 officers running around with guns every day, it's a complicated business. And for me to go in or to be presumptuous at this point to say, "I'm going to do this, this and this," I'm not going to do that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, the point -- I'm probably beating this to death -- is that you did have a very, very strong opinion ten years ago if, and when that letter was drafted and put together by you. But the concern that I

have is that are some of these ideas still at the forefront of your thoughts in managing the department? And you're indicating, probably rightfully so, that in ten years things do change, technological advances, police practices and techniques, etcetera. But one of the -- one of the points that you did make in that critique, for lack of a better word, of the department back ten years ago is that you wanted to do away or you recommended doing away with the Chief of the Department; do you still feel that way?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, not at this point I don't.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. Well, that's --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, no, I'm being very honest. I was talking about flattening the organization so I had to make a determination of where we would flatten it. At that time, I'm trying to recollect how many Deputy Commissioners were in there, but I think they had more than I'm going to have, I'm going to have one Deputy Commissioner. I believe there was a Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs. So they had at least two Deputy Commissioners and a Commissioner, I'm not going to have that luxury. The department has been flattened at the top, so I wouldn't -- you know, two Assistant Chiefs have been removed, they were removed by the Police Commissioner, I think that's a big flattening to me.

LEG. O'LEARY:

So certainly you wouldn't advocate at this point in time eliminating Chief Moore's job, or soon-to-be Chief Moore's job.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, when he gets that position, if we do get to that, you know, hopefully, he's going to have a lot of work to do. And you said you know me for years --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Yes.

24

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

-- and you know what I'm talking about, he's going to have a lot of work to do.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Will the role of your Deputy Police Commissioner be more involved in the every day operations of the department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, yes.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Can you expand upon that, please?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, other than that, that I'm thinking about that, you know, as I go into the job; again, I've got to wait till I'm confirmed and decide what people are going to be doing. But I -- in the back of my mind I'm thinking to myself I want the Deputy Commissioner more

involved in the operations of the department.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Well, that's something that hasn't changed in ten years, that was your opinion ten years ago, so it's still your opinion today.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, if that's what I said ten years ago.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm sure you've taken a look at that letter over the last couple of weeks --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

If you saw -- I've been reading letters and reports and contracts for a month now, so.

LEG. O'LEARY:

In closing, you indicated what two of the greatest issues facing the department back ten years ago were, can you -- I know Legislator Bishop covered this but I would just like to hear it again, what do you envision as the two greatest issues facing the Suffolk County Police Department today?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, you mean major issues; what do you mean issues?

LEG. O'LEARY:

I don't mean minor issues, what's the sense talking about minor issues? Of course --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well --

LEG. O'LEARY:

The two greatest issues are the two greatest major issues, yes.

25

LEG. BISHOP:

You mean problems?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm really not clear on the question, I'm sorry.

LEG. O'LEARY:

All right, let me get more specific.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Is reorganization of the Police Department one of the greatest issues facing the Police Department today?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't know, I have to get in there and look. I have a hundred ideas floating in my head, I'm certainly not going to put them on paper or write anybody a letter. I don't know if they're feasible till I get

in there and talk to the people in the department that actually do the operation, that are actually working and running the Police Department, and I'm going to depend on their expertise. Just like if I was taking over a business, I have certainly made up my mind that I'm going to look at every unit in the Police Department to see if it's still the -- the unit should still be operating and if it is operating, to make sure it's running efficiency.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Now to get to your Ten Point Program For Change. Some of those points you've already covered, but the one point, point six, you indicate that, "Open communication among all personnel and the development of an organizational climate that encourages honest disagreement"; can you amplify on that Program For Change as to what you mean by that?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I think it's very important that people in the Police Department be able to voice their opinions openly about issues without fear of retaliation, okay, or any negative consequences, and that goes from the bottom all the way up to the top. Administrators have to be open to suggestions and they should solicit people's suggestions, and I want that openness in the policing business; I think we get a better service for the people of Suffolk County if we do that. I have always said this, ten years ago I said it and I'm saying it today, we have probably the best educated Police Officers anywhere at the Police Officer and Detective level, we should ask their opinions and expertise on issues pertaining to public safety. Historically, most of the changes came from the top, from people that have been off the street for years. And like I mentioned earlier, it's like medicine; things change. So if you talk to the people at the operating level, you might end up with a better product, but they've got to be able to tell you what they think without worrying about the consequences. And I'm not talking about the supervisors or the bosses, I'm talking about operational stuff; how can we do this better? Is there a better way to do this?

26

Just as an example, the computer system, the people that we have in the patrol cars today were brought up with computers. My generation, we had to learn this stuff, I'm still catching up on it; my kids are way ahead of me on the computer stuff. And the same thing with the cops, why don't we utilize this? So I think that -- but they have to feel that they can say what they're thinking and that would be, "I think the Chief is on wrong track here," okay, "This is the way I would do it." You know, somebody should listen and say, "Okay. Tell me, how would you do it," you may get a better product.

LEG. O'LEARY:

But you're certainly not advocating that the paramilitary structure of the department be changed at all, it's just basically an informational input on the part of the street cop, if you will, on suggested changes to improve the efficiency of the department and serving the public.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, yeah, and I think -- and by the way, when I talk about the officers, I'm talking about the unions, you know, people that are in the business --

LEG. O'LEARY:

I'm going to get to that.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, no, no, I'm not finished. People in the unions, they hear from their people on street, just like Legislators hear from their people in the communities. So they may have ideas on how to better run the Police Department, I'm talking about operationally, I'm not talking about contractual stuff, they may have ideas on how we can better do this. So I believe that administrators should be open to all suggestions, and if it doesn't make sense tell the person why it doesn't make sense.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I was interested that your first point on the Program For Change, and that is the protection and preservation of human life as your highest priority; do you have any indication that that is not the highest priority of the Police Department today?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, no, no, but I think that we should state that; I mean, that's number one. You know, Robert Peel in 1822 said the same thing, nothing has changed since 1822. Preservation of life, making people feel safe; it was true then and it's true today. And I think it should be number one, we should keep that in mind all the time. If our people are not safe out there to go to school or go to work, go shopping, carry on the business, there wouldn't be anything left, that's our number one priority.

LEG. O'LEARY:

As members of the Public Safety Committee, of course I can't speak for the other members of the Public Safety Committee, but I for one, if you intended on wholesale changes within the structure of the department, I would hope that perhaps you would bring it to the attention of this committee for its review and analysis of the

27

effectiveness of that? And the reason why I say that is because clearly you took a position some time ago that elected officials have responsibilities to the people that they represent within the districts and communities they represent, and of course public safety is one of the top priorities of the people, speaking in my district. Is that -- would that be a policy of yours as the Commissioner to bring to the attention of this committee any wholesale structural changes you anticipate making?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't know what you mean by wholesale, I mean --

LEG. O'LEARY:

What do I mean by it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Wholesale; what do you mean by wholesale changes?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Radical changes; you don't anticipate making any radical changes?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I don't know about radical. I mean, again, wholesale and radical, I mean, I might --

LEG. O'LEARY:

My point of reference --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I might not think about it that way. Certainly --

LEG. O'LEARY:

My only point of reference, sir, is the letter you drafted ten years ago. And as I said from the onset, I was concerned about the contents of that, and in that letter there certainly is a lot of radical, wholesale changes of the department.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Like what? That I may answer it specifically; what was in that letter that's radical?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Like flattening the organization where there are no longer Chiefs but civilians or --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I never said that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

-- the Deputy Commissioner -- excuse me?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I never said that in the letter.

LEG. O'LEARY:

You don't want me to quote your letter, do you?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah; no, quote the letter, I never said get rid of the Chiefs. When you flatten the organization you're looking at layers. And by the way, it was done, I mentioned that, two Assistant Chiefs, that's flattening the organization. Deputy Commissioner went out of the structure; that's certainly flattening the organization. Somebody might say that that's very radical, but even after that was done, the Suffolk County Police Department tried and progressed.

LEG. O'LEARY:

The one area of concern that you have, and I'm sure it's a very legitimate concern, is how the Police Officer in the street deals with the public on a daily basis, and obviously the dignified and respectful public service on the part of the police officer in dealing with the public is very, very important. Do you have any indication that that's not the case today, are there isolated incidents that have been brought to your attention or is it a wholesale problem within the department of how they deal with the public on a daily basis?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, all I know from talking to people and talking to Legislators is that this is a concern that has been mentioned to me. I also know that people have mentioned this over the last eleven years, so this is not something new. In fact, I just resurrected a letter that was written by a Chief a number of years ago addressing that problem which it was a concern to the administration at that time -- and this is going back nine, ten years in the department -- that officers, again, they see themselves as crime fighters rather than service oriented. And I don't know if it's a training issue, it's something I have to look at when I get into, you know, the position; hopefully I get in.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I agree with you, the officer should in most incidences, of course when they're confronted with a person on the street who does not -- is not cooperative with police action, but for the most part certainly Police Officers should act or treat the public with dignity and respect, and I think that's often the case; rarely has it been brought to my attention over the course of the years that that is not the case. And I applaud you for looking at that as a focal point of your administration, that your sensitivity training, if you will, on the Police Officers dealing with the public on the street is very, very important.

The only thing that I -- perhaps in closing, I just wanted to ask a pointed question and I kept this for the last, and that's -- again, I'm referring back to an opinion that you had some ten years ago and there's no indication that this has changed at all, but at least some of my colleagues might think so. What do you envision the role of the unions with respect to the Police Department, the management of the Police Department and the deployment of personnel and contractual obligations put on management as a result of the collective bargaining agreements?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I have no problem with the union contracts. Again, it's like -- and I tell people this, it's like the Penal Law, the Criminal

Procedure Law, the union contract; you follow it, you don't knowingly violate the contract, the people in the department are going to be told this by me when I go in there. I want to have an open relationship with the unions if they have problems over work related conditions and also contractual issues. I think we should be able to talk to each other about these issues and try to resolve them before they go to a hearing or arbitration, that kind of thing. So I think there should be an open relationship with the unions, and I mentioned that before. They have a role to play, protect our members, and I'm very aware of that and I understand it. I live with -- and the department, administration, lives with the contract; when that thing is signed, that's law and we live by it. If we do need to deviate we shouldn't have to do it with the union, you have to get the union approval.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Do you anticipate assigning an individual or individuals who act as a liaison with the various union officials representing the department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I'm finding -- that's one of the questions I had yesterday, I had a hundred questions yesterday and one of them was who deals with the unions if they have an issue, and I want to attempt to put it in a unit rather than in a person. I haven't made a decision yet on that but it's certainly one of my concerns in that we can have someplace that the unions can deal with, some person or unit, whether it be the Legal Bureau, the Chief of the Department. I'm talking about problems that are not handled at the operating level, a lot of problems or issues are handled at that level, that's not going to change, I want that to continue because that's the efficient way to do this. But if it's something that can't be resolved at the operating level, somebody in the department should be able to deal with this, and I know -- they have given me a couple of names that deal with these issues and, you know, we'll have to see if that will continue. I'm not sure but it's certainly something that we have to -- we've got to have that in place.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay. And my last and final question has to do with overtime. How do you as the Police Commissioner designate, looking to be confirmed by this body, hope to address that particular situation? How would you -- how would you make attempts to try to limit -- I know you can't make it a zero-type of a situation because the very nature of the job is that overtime does exist. But what ideas and thoughts do you have in trying to limit the amount of overtime that the current sworn personnel obtain within the department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Like you said, overtime, we need overtime to run the business. In the 2004 budget there's overtime in there. The only thing I'm going to ask the managers, Precinct Commanders, the Lieutenant, the Captains is to make sure that they manage it probably, that they monitor it. Nobody is -- and from what they're telling me and I talked about this yesterday and I got the last quarter's overtime and they were within budget, okay, the last quarter of 2003, but they -- I asked them to give me some reports on how they manage the overtime to make sure it's

30

properly managed. They may be doing a good job with it, I don't know, we may not have to do anything with it, but I'm certainly going to look at it. It's one of the areas that I'd be remiss if I didn't look at it, because it is a big budgetary item in the Police budget.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I mean, my sense is that your administration will be a work in progress, looking at everything.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, that's pretty good.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Is that a fairly accurate assessment?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I should have used that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

A work in progress?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Legislator O'Leary. Legislator Losquadro, you had a question?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

As was stated earlier, obviously we're in the business of representing the constituents of our district. And I know it's only your second day on the job, but you're obviously quite conversant with many areas of the department and you've done a lot of research, obviously. In regard to the 6th Precinct, the current 6th Precinct location, obviously you're aware a new 6th Precinct is being constructed and the current 6th Precinct lies within the boundaries of my district. My district is split between the 6th and 7th Precinct and there is a great concern from the residents of the southwest corner of my district as to what the fate of the current 6th Precinct will be; will it be used to house COPE Units or detectives. There's a great concern within the community about a lack of a police presence in an area that greatly needs it.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Again, I was only in there one day but I did discuss the 6th Precinct and we're going to have an issue with -- Highway Patrol has to move out of the quarters that they're in now, I think they're in Bay Shore, we're going to have to find someplace for them. So a suggestion was made to me that maybe we should look at the 6th Precinct so, you know, again, one day.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right.

31

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

So we're very much aware that that building is there.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Is it your intention to keep that building within the Suffolk County Police Department and not have it go outside, the ownership of the Suffolk County Police Department?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

You know, space is always a problem in the Police Department, we're always looking for places. So if I had my say, and I'm not sure at this point if the Police Commissioner has the say over that and I'll let you know, but I would like to keep it in the Police Department.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

So that is your intention.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, after one day.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That would be your hope, that --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Somebody could tell me tomorrow, you know, you can't decide what to do with the building, so I don't know. But certainly the suggestion was made that maybe Highway Patrol could go over there, but then I saw another piece of paper that we may want to build a facility for Highway Patrol at one of the rest areas on the Expressway, but that would be down the road. So in the meantime, we have to come up with a for Highway Patrol.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Just a point of information on the Highway Patrol. They are in Bay Shore and they are moving forward with the rest area on the LIE as a headquarters for the Highway Patrol that the State is actually going to be building the building, and the Legislature did pass a memorandum that the County signed off on indicating interest in that actual thing happening.

Much reference was made to the letter that you penned, as you said, many years ago and I do want to thank you and I raised it with you, you did share it with me. And there's something in here and you said a number of times today things changed in ten years, and I'm going to read something to you that you wrote and ask you how you feel about it now and I'm going say that I hope you haven't changed your mind on this one. "This movement of officers must be free from the political process. An example of political interference is the call from the County Executive's Office to not move Officer Jones back to patrol or not to demote Chief Smith, this kind of interference undermines the whole process;" do you still concur with that?

32

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yep, a hundred percent.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great; that's terrific, that's great to hear. I have a number of things that I just want to, again, get on the record. It wasn't touched by any of the Legislators and that is gang units and what a vital role they play. And also, they in particular are a fine example of the communication and cooperation that exists amongst the various public safety sectors in this County, namely the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department, FRES and so forth. Do you see that same kind of commitment to issues like the gang unit?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, no, the gang unit is very important. This is a problem not just in Suffolk County but throughout the country and we have to be proactive in this area rather than reactive; we're going to be continuing that effort.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great. You talked and it was touched on civilianization and there have been examples of civilianization that have taken place in the department. But part of the problem has been that when officers are

returned to the car or the street, so to speak, that the civilianization doesn't always take place, that role or function, that was done by the Police Officer, the County Executive's Office doesn't necessarily sign-off on the necessary SCIN forms to make sure that those various positions are filled by civilians. Do you feel that this administration is going to make that kind of commitment?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, the County Executive is committed to civilianization and we're hopeful that there will be backfilling if an officer is taken out of a position. By the way, there's a job that has to be done, somebody has to do it.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Exactly.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Usually it's because they don't have somebody to do it and an officer does if. So if the officer is moved out we have to have that backfilled and then we have to be aware that some of these people may leave for some reason because of whatever and we've got to be able to rehire somebody in that position again. And I know it has been a problem in the past, it's something I'm going to discuss with the County Executive.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The other issue that the County Executive has talked about for as long as I know him and that is the police officers on the LIE and Sunrise Highway and I know one time that he was a member of this body he pursued removing them, and I want to know what your feelings are about that.

33

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, I'm a former Highway Officer and boss over there, so I have a little bit of a feeling for Highway Patrol, but let me give you the fiscal end of this thing. It costs about \$10 million to patrol the Expressway and the County Executive has stated that he's going to ask for reimbursement from the State and we don't know if that's going to happen. If that doesn't happen, we may approach the State police and see if they will take it over, I don't know if that will happen, we don't know. But we're not going to pull the officers off the Expressway and leave, you know, the people without public safety on there, so.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Well, I think that that --

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

It's certainly something that's been mentioned for years, we're going to be looking at it. Are they going to be disbanded tomorrow or next week? I doubt it. But again, it's --

LEG. O'LEARY:

A work in progress.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

-- a work in progress and I think that's been a work in progress now

for a long time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

For a long time. And I don't know that the State -- you know, we probably stand a better shot of getting the financial resources from the State or some sort of financial commitment for the patrol that we do because I for one don't think that they would ever be in a position to deliver the kind of service to the residents of this County that our Highway Patrol does on both Sunrise Highway and the LIE and that we would be doing the residents of this County and those that visit a major, major injustice. And I think that kind of would be one of the radical changes that perhaps Legislator O'Leary was referring to, that if that were contemplated that this body certainly would be kept abreast of it, as I'm sure we will because your predecessor, and even other Commissioners that I've been told have been very good about coming to the Public Safety Committee on a regular basis, reviewing the agenda as it pertains to public safety issues that affect the department directly. And Commissioner Gallagher certainly, you know, was at almost every Public Safety Committee and I would hope that we could expect that same kind of attention from you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yes, yes, you can. Any time you want me to come before you to discuss an issue, I'll certainly do that.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Okay. We just have to pause for one second while -- you went through a whole thing of tape, see? And you're still alive.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

No, that was Legislator O'Leary.

34

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. I guess there is one -- two other things, one is the 4th Precinct, that is the last remaining precinct that to say it is in dire need of refurbishing is an understatement for sure. The conditions there are absolutely abhorring, I toured it recently and it's really a testament to the men and women that work in that building that they, you know, haven't -- there hasn't been some sort of a revolution there because they have really been more than patient and I would want to know that that would be a major priority to move that forward.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Somebody mentioned the 4th Precinct to me, you know, when they briefed me yesterday and I don't have any details on it, but that's certainly on the agenda.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, and I'm sure that this committee will be very much a part of making sure that we move that forward. Legislator O'Leary just thought of another question.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Mentioning a precinct, you just reminded of another question that I have, perhaps it's self-serving but it has to do with the 7th Precinct which is a new precinct just recently staffed --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

A work in progress.

LEG. O'LEARY:

A work in progress?

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

The 7th Precinct.

LEG. O'LEARY:

The 7th Precinct is a work in progress. However, I have been made aware of the fact that in comparison with the other precincts -- and I don't want to diminish the personnel assigned to the current precincts, but it would be appreciated if you could with an eye towards completely staffing that precinct with additional police officer personnel, I think the supervisory personnel are in place. But however, I'm of the opinion that the Police Officers numbers as compared to the other precincts are much lower proportionately to the population and the area that they serve. So I would appreciate it if you would take a look at that and look with an eye towards fully staffing the 7th Precinct on a comparable basis with the other six precincts.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

We'll look at that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Thank you.

35

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

One more thing. Oh, Legislator --

LEG. LINDSAY:

No, I don't have a question.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. One thing I just want to clarify and ask for your support on actually. In the narrative that you supplied with your resume, in talking about the reforms that County Executive Levy has campaigned on and so forth, that the department would be a part of that and the plan to move forward in a systematic and professional way to increase efficiencies with the support of the County Executive. But I would ask that you acknowledge that whatever is done is done with the support of the Legislature, too, because we are equal partners in government here and I would like to know that we're going to, you know, continue or actually just work really well together.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I concur with that. I will keep you apprised to anything major or even that might appear that it's going to be major.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I don't think we can ask for more than that. And I really appreciate your patience. It's been a long, arduous questioning and sharing of information back and forth, but I think that you above all understand how important we all feel about the department and how

important an appointment this is and everyone, you know, just takes it very, very seriously. And I feel very comfortable and I would like to move forward with a motion --

LEG. O'LEARY:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
-- to approve this resolution and send it to committee, and I have a second by Legislator O'Leary. And I would ask for a roll call vote on this.

LEG. NOWICK:
He's on the phone.

(*Roll Called by Chairperson Carpenter*)

LEG. LOSQUADRO:
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:
Yes; no more printed letters.

LEG. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:
Yes.

36

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:
Legislator Crecca stepped out. Legislator O'Leary?

LEG. O'LEARY:
Yes.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
As the second and --

LEG. O'LEARY:
You're not surprised, are you? You look like you're surprised.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
You're reading too much into this.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Legislator Crecca, your vote on this? We've moving this out to the full Legislature, yes?

LEG. CRECCA:
Of course.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:
Of course, thank you. And my vote is yes and we look forward to seeing you next Tuesday the 27th and thank you for your patience.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:
Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Okay.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I really do; it was an experience.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Likewise. Now you can handle anything.

Okay, we have one other item of business. Dave? And thank you for your patience when you said you would be willing to wait --

LEG. BISHOP:

While Commissioner Fischler comes forward, I have a question for the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes. And one other thing, if I can anticipate your question --

LEG. BISHOP:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Did you get the copy of the letter from Pulitzer and Bogard in response to the letter from the committee that they are very committed on projects and we're working on trying to get them here for the next

37

meeting, at the very least they will be here for the March meeting is my understanding.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay. So they may come sooner, you'll let us know, but the plan now --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Exactly, yeah, as soon as I hear. In fact, I was speaking with the gentlemen from the Sheriff's Department and asked them to reach out to them and encourage them to get here as soon as possible.

LEG. BISHOP:

I know -- I believe it was in the Public Works Committee which I sat in on towards the end of last year, but basically the Public Works Department was indicating that they haven't moved forward on designing the new jail, even though there are resolutions to the contrary.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Well, we're meeting --

LEG. BISHOP:

I would hope they wouldn't until we've had this dialogue is my point.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, exactly.

LEG. BISHOP:

Well, the Public Works Committee is meeting in 15 minutes, so I'm sure that is something that will be on the agenda.

LEG. BISHOP:

I just want to make sure that we're not spending money that we're going to regret. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great. Okay, Dave; briefly, as you can imagine.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes. I would like to start off with thank you for allowing me to speak and I wish everyone a happy, healthy and a safe new year. And let me be the first department head to request some more money.

What you have in front of you is a concern that I would like to put on the record and request your assistance. In the budget process last year, the Omnibus bill which is attached as page two, funds were removed from my 110 accounts, the salary accounts in both the 3400 Fire Rescue Account and in the 3405 which is the Domestic Preparedness account. The adopted Omnibus bill gave me three million, you have the number there, three million three hundred and some odd thousand dollars for salaries. Currently, filled positions are projected to cost me three million four hundred and some odd dollars, showing a deficiency in my budget just on currently filled positions of \$140,179. In the last three budgets there are two positions, Chief of Fire Rescue Services and Assistant Chief Fire Rescue Communications that were included but there was never sufficient funds to have those

38

positions filled. Therefore, those additional amounts to fill those positions would total \$142,856.

In the budget process last year, this Legislature saw fit to put in a Director of Emergency Preparedness and part of that process included I believe a stand-alone resolution which included \$44,000 for that position, that was factored into the total of the salary accounts. But looking at that total number, it was \$55,926, we're still under funded obviously so we can't fill those positions. Therefore, the total shortfall if we filled all the positions worth \$338,961. We request that funds be found or located within our current budget so that we can hire April 1st at a cost of 294,000 because we've already gone past the first three years.

Within the Domestic Preparedness, and during that time we made a plea in the Domestic Preparedness area because of the Federal funds that had been coming in, the amount of equipment that has been given to us through the State, both by the actions of this committee and the Legislature and funding other domestic preparedness programs, we have a lot of equipment that needs to be maintained, we need training capabilities to go out and train both fire, law enforcement, EMS personnel. We have requested two Fire Marshals and this body seemed fit to include those two Fire Marshals. The Omnibus bill removed funding and left us with only \$12,000 for the two positions; obviously enough probably just for one month's salary, one and a half month's salary. We request money be found in the amount of \$41,970 so that we can at least hire them by July 1st. The total amount that we would ask this body to consider restoring to our salary account so that we can, number one, meet the shortfall in our budget in the salary account and, next, to fill the positions that have been deemed

necessary by this body to keep included in our budget would be a total of \$336,192.

We ask for your assistance, it's important to the programs we're doing. They are positions that, again, have always been included in the last three years but never properly funded so that we can fill them. We need these positions, we need to move forward and I ask for your assistance.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you very much, Dave. I would just ask that, you know, I don't know if you have already sat with Budget Review and see if they could assist in identifying --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I will do that, I haven't done that yet.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay? That would be helpful and then perhaps they can get back to me.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER CARPENTER:

Is there anything else that needs to come before the committee? Then we stand adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 P.M.*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson
Public Safety & Public Information Committee